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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

December 1, 2004

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ref: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of the Veterans Foreign Wars of the United States and our Auxiliaries, I would like to express our concern regarding a recent proposal that would have a significant impact on our military personnel and their families.

The proposal would impose new charges and access fees on pre-paid calling cards. The effect of this new regulation, if successful, would be an estimated 20% hike in rates on per-minute calling cards. If such a proposal is implemented, it will place an unjust burden on the thousands of young men and women in our military serving around the world who uses the pre-paid calling cards to communicate with their loved ones back home.

The VFW through its *Operation Uplink* program has provided hundreds of thousands of pre-paid calling cards to military personnel throughout the world. We believe that these calling cards are the life-line for our service men and women stationed at home and abroad who depend on an affordable means of communication with their friends and family.

We hope that during this time of war-- when our military is courageously fighting for our freedoms -- the FCC would consider the adverse impact an increase in access fees would have on the price of communicating with loved ones.

Sincerely,


ROBERT E. WALLACE
Executive Director

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